

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 CPR-02 M-03 A-01

OPR-02 PER-05 SCA-01 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 PPT-02 VO-03 OC-06 CCO-00 EB-11 COME-00

RSR-01 /172 W

----- 069727

P 301932 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0838

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 04519

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LY, US

SUBJ: LIBYAN PASSPORT PROBLEM

REF: TRIPOLI 546

### SUMMARY:

A GROUP OF 30 TO 40 NON- ARABIC ALITALIA PASSENGERS  
( INCLUDING AMERICANS) ARRIVED AT BENGHAZI APRIL 28 ON  
ALITALIA FLIGHT 886 FROM ROME AT APPROXIMATELY 2200  
HOURS LOCAL TIME AND WERE REFUSED ADMISSION BECAUSE  
THEIR PASSPORTS WERE NOT IN ARABIC DESPITE FACT THAT  
ALL HAD VALID VASAS. THE ITALIAN CONSUL IN BENGHAZI  
AND ALITALIA AGENT ARRANGED TO HAVE THE GROUP RETURNED  
TO ROME ON THE SAME PLANE WITH THE SAME CREW AT 0100  
HOURS APRIL 29. APPARENTLY THIS FLIGHT IS A REGULAR  
SCHEDULED ALITALIA FLIGHT, THE CREW OVERNIGHTS AND  
THEN RETURNS TO ROME THE FOLLOWING MORNING WITH THE  
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SAME PLANE. THE THREE AMERICANS ON BOARD BELIEVED THIS ACTION WAS LIBYAN RETALIATION FOR THE ITALIAN ARREST OF THE BLACK SEPTEMBER MEMBER CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF THE ITALIAN ALITALIA EMPLOYEE ON APRIL 27. END SUMMARY.

MR. GEORGE C. KUNKEL REPORTED TO EMB OFF TODAY THAT HE AND TWO OF HIS COLLEAGUES ( JAMES C. OSBOURNE AND ROBERT SANDFORD), ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE HUNT OIL COMPANY IN DALLAS TEXAS, WERE FLYING TO BENGHAZI FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THEIR LOCAL MANAGER ( MR. D. B. PETERSON OF NELSON, BUNKER & HUNT, BENGHAZI P. O. BOX 20). THEIR BUSINESS WAS ROUTINE AND ALL HAD TRAVELED TO LIBYA BEFORE BUT NONE SINCE JANUARY 1, 1973. THEY DID NOT HAVE ARABIC TRANSLATIONS OF THEIR U. S. PASSPORTS BUT HAD EXPERIENCED NO DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING VALID 15 DAY BUSINESS VISAS FROM THE LIBYAN EMBASSY LONDON ON APRIL 27. THE LIBYAN EMBASSY HAD WANTED TO TAKE 72 HOURS TO PROCESS THE VISA APPLICATIONS BUT THE HUNT OIL COMPANY LONDON OFFICE WAS ABLE TO PURSUADE THE EMBASSY TO ISSUE ONLY AFTER A LAPSE OF 24 HOURS.

UPON THE FLIGHT'S ARRIVAL IN BENGHAZI, ALL NON- ARABIC PASSENGERS WERE TOLD BY THE CUSTOMS INSPECTOR THAT THEY WOULD BE PROCESSED LATER. WHEN ALL ARABIC PASSENGERS HAD BEEN PROCESSED, THE NON- ARABIC PASSPORTS WERE REMOVED BY A CUSTOMS OFFICIAL TO ANOTHER ROOM. AFTER ABOUT 30 MINUTES THE ITALIAN CONSUL IN BENGHAZI APPEARED AND MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE THE GROUP REMOVED TO THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE WHICH WAS MORE COMFORTABLE AND WHERE REST ROOM FACILITIES WERE PROVIDED. THE ITALIAN CONSUL MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EVERYONE TO BE FLOWN BACK TO ROME AND PUT UP IN A ROME AIRPORT HOTEL.

THE ITALIAN CREW OF THE PLANE, WHICH NORMALLY STAYS OVERNIGHT IN BENGHAZI AND THEN FLIES THE PLANE BACK THE NEXT DAY, WAS ALSO DETAINED BUT SEPARATELY FROM

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 CPR-02 M-03 A-01

OPR-02 PER-05 SCA-01 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

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RSR-01 /172 W

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P 301932 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0839

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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THE PASSENGERS.

THE ITALIAN CONSUL TOLD THE GROUP THAT THEY HAD BEEN REFUSED ADMISSION INTO LIBYA BECAUSE THEIR PASSPORTS WERE NOT IN ARABIC. THE PASSENGERS WERE ALLOWED TO BOARD THE PLANE AROUND MIDNIGHT AND LIBYAN ARMY PERSONNEL RETURNED THE PASSPORTS TO EACH PASSENGER AND THE PLANE DEPARTED WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT AT APPROXIMATELY 0100 HOURS FOR ROME.

MR. D. B. PETERSON, THE BENGHAZI OFFICE MANAGER FOR HUNT OIL, WAS ABLE TO BRIEFLY SPEAK WITH THE THREE AMERICANS AT THE AIRPORT THROUGH A WINDOW BUT WAS UNABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT ACTUALLY THE PROBLEM MIGHT HAVE BEEN. HE IS NOW IN LONDON AND MR. KUNKEL AND HIS ASSOCIATES CONSULTED WITH MR. PETERSON REGARDING WHETHER THEY SHOULD MAKE A SECOND ATTEMPT TO RE- ENTER LIBYA. MR. KUNKEL'S VISA WAS NOT CANCELLED AND HE  
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INTENDS TO ATTEMPT TO USE THAT TO RE- ENTER. MR. SANDFORD AND MR. OSBOURNE HAVE JUST BEEN ISSUED WITH NEW PASSPORTS SINCE THE ONES THEY USED WERE ABOUT TO EXPIRE. THEY PLAN TO REQUEST NEW VISAS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF TRIPOLI 546, THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THEY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

SINCE DRAFTING THE ABOVE WE HAVE LEARNED THAT ALL THREE HUNT EMPLOYEES HAVE DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE US TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS. OSBOURNE TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT HE WILL CONTACT LIBYAN DESK OFFICER IN DEPARTMENT WHEN HE RETURNS.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** PFOR, LY, US  
**To:** AF  
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SECSTATE WASHDC  
TRIPOLI  
USUN NEW YORK  
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